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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,846	06/27/2003	Nam Young Kong	8734.215.00 - US	4819

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

TRAN, HENRY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/606,846	Applicant(s) KONG, NAM YOUNG	
	Examiner Henry N. Tran	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

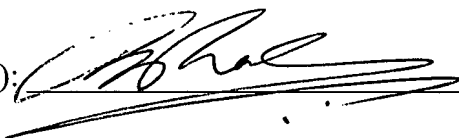
1. In view of the Supplemental Appeal Brief filed on July 06, 2007, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

Bipin H. Shalwala (SPE):  SPE AV 2629

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who

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has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dotson et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,257, hereinafter referred to as "Dotson").

Regarding claim 1, Dotson teaches a driving apparatus of a touch panel, see Fig. 2, comprising: a touch panel for generating a coordinate signal according to a position of a contact point, see col. 5, line 66, and col. 15, line 66 to col. 16 line 5; at least two interface integrated circuits (104) connected to the touch panel (eight input/output terminals 120-134 of the analog switch matrix 104 of the interface circuit 100 connected to the touch screen), see Fig. 3, col. 5, line 55 to col. 6, line 29; a computer system driving the touch panel and connected to any one of the at least two interface integrated circuits, see Figs. 2 and 3; a sensor (registers 110-118 and the analog switch matrix 104 of the interface circuit 100) for automatically detecting the interface integrated circuit connected to the computer system; and a controller (an analog-to-digital converter 102 and the logic circuit 250) for converting the coordinate signal in accordance with the interface integrated circuit detected at the sensor and transmitting the converted coordinate signal to the computer system, see Figs. 3-7, col. 5, line 26 to col. 20, line 41.

Regarding claim 2, Dotson further teaches the interface integrated circuit and the sensor

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is integrated with the controller (eight input/output terminals 120-134 of the analog switch matrix 104 connected to the logic circuit 250 through A/D 102, and they are part of the touch screen interface, see col. 15, lines 34-40).

Regarding claim 3, Dotson further teaches the controller includes: an analog-to-digital converter (102) for converting an coordinate signal of analog input from the touch panel into a coordinate signal of digital; a microcomputer (the logic circuit 250) for converting the digital coordinate signal into a coordinate value in accordance with the interface integrated circuit sensed at the sensor; and a selector (registers 110-118) of the interface circuit (100) for selecting the interface integrated circuit sensed at the sensor among the at least two interface integrated circuits, see the references recited in claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 4, Dotson further teaches that the sensor is integrated with the microcomputer (registers 110-118, the analog switch matrix 104, and the logic circuit 250 is part of the interface circuit 100), see Figs. 3 and 7, and col. 15, lines 34-40.

Regarding claim 5, Dotson further teaches the driving apparatus further comprising at least two transmitting connectors, e.g., I/O terminals (120 X+) and (122 X-), corresponding to the at least two interface integrated circuits; and at least two receiving connectors, e.g., a TOUCH_PRESS terminal of the inverting logic gate (106), and the analog input terminal (IN) of the A/D converter (102) corresponding to the at least two transmitting connectors, see Fig. 3.

Regarding claim 6, Dotson further teaches the driving apparatus having the interface integrated circuit (100) connected to the computer system using a serial communication (74), see Fig. 2.

Regarding claim 7, Dotson further teaches the driving apparatus sensor (registers 110-118

and the analog switch matrix 104 of the interface circuit 100) senses the interface integrated circuit (100) connected to the computer system when a transmitting connector corresponding to the interface integrated circuit connected to the computer system is connected to a receiving connector, when the computer system is connected to the interface integrated circuit.

Regarding claim 8, Dotson further teaches the interface integrated circuit (100) connected to the computer system includes USB communication (81), see Fig. 2.

Regarding claim 9, Dotson further teaches the computer system transmits a sense control signal to the sensor when the computer system is connected to the interface integrated circuit (registers 110-118 of the interface circuit 100 of the computer system transmits a sense control bit string data to the sensor when the computer system is connected to the interface integrated circuit (100) when the computer system is connected to the interface integrated circuit, see col. 5, lines 19-55.

Regarding claim 10, Dotson also teaches a method of driving a touch panel device, comprising: sensing an interface integrated circuit connected to a computer system among at least two interface integrated circuits, and selecting the sensed interface integrated circuit, see section 2: "Automatic detection of Touch Screen Type", col. 6, lines 53+; calculating a contact point as a coordinate value for a touch panel, converting the coordinate value in accordance with the interface integrated circuit, and transmitting the converted coordinate value to the computer system through the selected interface integrated circuit, see Figs. 4A or 4B, and Fig. 6, see section 3: "Touch Screen Data Processing", col. 14, lines 46+

Regarding claim 11, Dotson teaches a method for driving a touch panel device, comprising: driving the touch panel to be connected to any one of at least two interface

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integrated circuits and automatically detecting the interface integrated circuit connected to a computer system, see section 2: "Automatic detection of Touch Screen Type", col. 6, lines 53+; generating a coordinate signal according to a position of a contact point, converting the coordinate signal in accordance with the interface integrated circuit detected at a sensor and transmitting the converted coordinate signal to the computer system, see Figs. 4A or 4B, and Fig. 6, see section 3: "Touch Screen Data Processing", col. 14, lines 46+.

Regarding claims 12-15, Dotson further teaches the steps of: selecting the interface integrated circuit sensed at the sensor among the at least two interface integrated circuits, see section 2: "Automatic detection of Touch Screen Type", col. 6, lines 53+; converting a coordinate signal of an analog input from the touch panel into a digital coordinate signal, see col. 16, lines 48+; converting the digital coordinate signal into a coordinate value in accordance with the interface integrated circuit sensed at the sensor, see Figs. 4A or 4B, and Fig. 6, see section 3: "Touch Screen Data Processing", col. 14, lines 46+; wherein the steps of driving the touch panel and converting the coordinate signal include serial communication interface (74), see Fig. 2; wherein the steps of driving the touch panel and converting the coordinate signal include USB communication interface (81), see Fig. 2; and wherein the step of driving the touch panel includes transmitting a sense control signal to the sensor when the computer system is connected to the interface integrated circuit, see the references recited in the rejection of claim 9 above.

Claims 12-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11, and are therefore rejected on the same reasons set for in claim 11, and by the reasons noted above.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection recited above.

Applicant's argued that the structural and physical features of the claimed sensor (34) of the present invention are different than those of the analog switch matrix (104) of Dotson patent. Said argument has been noted. It is noted that the disclosure and the claim(s) do not specifically define the structural and physical features, and functional operation(s) of the claimed sensor (34). Amendments to the specification, the drawings, and the claims are suggested for providing the needed descriptions of: (i) what type of sensor is used; and (ii) how that sensor is used to automatically detecting the interface integrated circuit connected to the computer system (claim 1); because that would help to made a clear distinction between the claimed sensor (34) and the sensor system comprising registers 110-118 and the analog switch matrix 104 of the interface circuit 100 as taught by Dotson patent. For the purpose of this Office action, the examiner applies the broadest reasonable interpretations in light of the specification for each of the claimed terms in the rejection of the claims.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry N. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-7760. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin H. Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Henry N. Tran/
Henry N Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2629

HT
10/14/07